

"I Was On The Rack"— Charlton

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0,
MIDDLESBROUGH 0.

THE score-line is the only redeeming feature for Middlesbrough. The First Division challengers gave a pathetic performance against the non-league giant-killers. Wanderers did not far off a sensation on an afternoon Middlesbrough will be happy to forget.

They battled away to write a new chapter of cup history, for they showed a greater aptitude for work and greater enthusiasm.

Middlesbrough failed to adjust on the sloping pitch and looked lead-footed. They were never at ease from the start, and at no time did they demonstrate the superior skills expected of a First Division side.

Wycombe had more shots at goal. Indeed, Middlesbrough didn't have one second-half shot worthy of the description.

Ten minutes from time Middlesbrough pulled off the ineffective Alan Foggan and substituted Alan Willey. Two minutes from time Wycombe sent on Dylan Evans for Tony Horsman.

Middlesbrough must start favourites for the replay on Tuesday at 7.30. But manager Jackie Charlton didn't hide his feelings after this game. "I've never been on the rack so much in my life. I was relieved at the final whistle."

Crowd—12,000.

Wycombe Wanderers—Maskell: Birdseye, Hand, Mead, Phillips, Reardon, Perrin, Kennedy, Searle, Holfield, Horsman (Evans). Middlesbrough—Platt: Craggs, Spraggan, Souness, Boam, Madden, Brine, Hickton, Mills, Foggan (Willey), Armstrong. Referee—A. Porter, Bolton.

WYCOMBE 0, MIDDLESBROUGH 0

SALUTE the Wycombe Wonders! The amateurs who had given themselves no hope ended up giving mighty Middlesbrough one helluva fright on the field—and a blasting off it.

Wycombe trooped off at the end of a match they should have won angry at the tactics their big-time opponents adopted in clinging on for a face-saving draw.

Midfield hero Reardon—the pipe-fitter who played Scottish international Souness out of the match—said: "Their display was a terrible indictment of the First Division and British football."

"All Souness did was kick me when the ball had gone and the referee pulled him up only once."

"But the worst thing is that they have so many non-tryers in the team—and so many of them kept niggling at each other all through."

A First Division team

should have shown their superiority and class against us. Instead, one of them even shouted 'Let's shut up shop with all of twenty-five minutes left. I ask you.'"

And goalkeeper John Maskell said: "We were all extremely disappointed with Boro. Frankly we expected to lose by at least 3-0 but now we're kicking ourselves because we didn't beat them."

Wycombe—unbeaten at home for two years—were at Boro's throats from the start to finish.

They had just one shot at goal—a twenty yarder from Foggan which Maskell saved well.

Apart from that Boro spent 90 per cent. of the match making panic clearances.

Manager Charlton congratulated the Wycombe men for "giving me my worst day as a manager."

Wycombe stun Jack's giants

By DAVID KENT Wycombe 0 Middlesbrough 0

"I was seared stiff. With 20 minutes to go we didn't think we would survive."

"We must win the replay, but I'm the most relieved man to be still in the Cup."

HARRIED

Extra incentive now for Boro to overcome Wycombe is a certain sell-out fourth-round tie against North-East neighbours Sunderland.

Wycombe harried their illustrious opponents so much that Stuart Boam and company were often forced to boot the ball out of play.

In the 50th minute Mick Holfield, playing with a heavily-handaged broken

allowed Wycombe few chances.

Two Wycombe men stood out—centre-back Keith Mead, who subdued David Mills, and Terry Reardon, who had a great midfield duel with Graham Souness, Boro's best player.

Wycombe, Isthmian League champions three times in the last four years, showed far greater fluency up front.

Paul Birdseye and Howard Kennedy went close for them in the first half yet Wycombe stepped up the pressure after the break.

In the 50th minute Mick Holfield, playing with a heavily-handaged broken

THE team were on the rack. Pinned in their own goalmouth. Shots flying past the posts. The opposition were too good. Too much skill. Too many attacking ideas.

The final whistle brought sighs of relief for a no-goal draw as the manager stubbed out the last of a trembling chain of cigarettes. Fate had given him a reprieve. Not Brian Lee... but Middlesbrough's Jack Charlton. Not the man who manages Wycombe for a hobby but the reigning Manager of the Year. I hope he has learned his lesson.

It was nothing short of disgraceful that Charlton took a team from the top of the First Division to play

defensive football on the ground of a non-League team who, on the admission of their own manager, are 'The worst in my time at the club.'

Middlesbrough's defend-and-break tactics which have cut down the best of the First Division never looked remotely like defeating the amateurs of Wycombe, of whom Lee says: "They like to enjoy their football. They've got an appetite for the game which puts the professionals to shame."

Middlesbrough, inevitably, were complaining about Wycombe's slope—an 11 foot diagonal drop—after their moral defeat. Charlton said: "The slope and the bumps make it difficult for us. Ayresome Park is big and flat and we'll murder them in the replay."

Intelligent

Of course they should. So they might. But Everton didn't murder Altrincham and Burnley didn't murder Wimbledon and unless Middlesbrough stop believing in the divine right of the top professionals and start playing football, they will once more be putting their fate right on the end of Wycombe's fist.

Whatever happens, Wycombe took home the glory from this third round tie.

Wycombe played intelligent football out of defence, shrugged off even Souness in midfield, played cunning passes through and around the tall Boam and thoroughly tormented right back Craggs.

They would have won if they had been justly rewarded for Horsman's near-post flick, Holfield's volley and a header by Phillips.

The most pertinent comment about Middlesbrough's attacking efforts was housed in Wycombe assistant manager John Reardon's remark about his own goalkeeper: "John Maskell doesn't get any easy games like that in the Isthmian League, you know."



CHARLTON—"We were really put on the rack"

right wrist, flashed a shot inches wide from Steve Perrin's cross.

Then centre-half Alan Phillips headed just wide. Wycombe forced a succession of corners but were unable to crack the Borough back line in which Boam was outstanding.

WYCOMBE.—Maskell 6. Birdseye 7, Hand 6, MEAD 9, Phillips 7, Reardon 8, Perrin 7, Kennedy 7, Searle 6, Holfield 7, Horsman 6.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Platt 6, Craggs 7, Spraggan 7, Souness 8, BOAM 9, Madden 7, Brine 6, Hickton 6, Mills 7, Foggan 5, Armstrong 6.